

## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT



## Research Highlights – Volume II

August 2012

The Regional Partnership for Culture and Development (RPCD) is a program of USAID's Office of Middle East Programs (OMEP). The goal of the RPCD is to gather and disseminate information that will improve development efforts in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

*Research Highlights* is a biannual e-newsletter describing current and anticipated research in the MENA region in three focus areas: natural resources management, youth development and engagement, and democracy and governance. We welcome your comments or submissions for future publications at [info@mena-partnership.info](mailto:info@mena-partnership.info).

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**Linking Family Planning with HIV/AIDS Services**

Author: Population Council

Publication Date: Expected December 2012

This research project aims at assessing the feasibility and acceptability of integrating family planning counseling and services into HIV services in Egypt, and assisting couples living with HIV/AIDS in making informed reproductive health decisions and achieving their reproductive goals. The results of this study will assist officials at the National AIDS Program (NAP) to identify integration model(s) that are most relevant to the Egyptian context and to improve reproductive health services for couples living with HIV/AIDS. The assessment will propose and prioritize a number of interventions that will be based on the assessment phase; results of the study will be widely disseminated.

**Assessment of Supply and Demand for Family Planning Services from a Human/Reproductive Rights Perspective**

Author: Population Council

Publication Date: Expected December 2012

The objective of this research is to conduct a rights-based, gender-sensitive stock-taking exercise of Family Planning (FP) service demand and supply within the context of the international human rights instruments and existing Egyptian laws and policies. Factors affecting access, affordability, use, quality, equity, and governance of FP services will be examined. The situation analysis will assess FP service quality and document the perceptions of beneficiaries, service providers, and policy makers of FP services and the extent to which they reflect a rights-based approach to service delivery. The community assessment will examine community awareness of their reproductive rights, as well as their needs and expectations for reproductive rights and services.

**Women and Knowledge in the Mediterranean**

Author: Fatima Sadiqi, Harvard Fellow

Publication Date: Expected January 2013

This book explores four main domains in which women's knowledge is attested: women and written knowledge; women and oral knowledge; women and legal, religious, and economic knowledge; and women and media knowledge. Through several tools, the book re-defines the concept of 'knowledge' through introducing types of knowledge that differ from the conventional necessities. It also presents women's perceptions of knowledge in these domains, which opens new avenues for social studies. This book will be an invaluable resource for students and scholars of the Middle East, Women and Gender studies and Mediterranean Studies. The author Fatima Sadiqi is Senior Professor of Gender Studies and recipient of a Harvard Fellowship. She is currently writing a book with the provisional title *A Feminism of One's Own: Women's Empowerment in Morocco – Going Beyond Islam*.  
<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415642101/>

**Environmental Politics in Egypt: Activists, Experts and the State**

Author: Jeannie Sowers

Publication Date: Expected December 2012

This book will be a major milestone in the literature on environmental politics in Egypt. It draws on extensive fieldwork conducted over the last two decades, up to and after the 2011 uprisings to show how decisions on environmental issues are formed. The book examines the role and interplay of experts, activists, companies and the state in shaping environmental governance in Egypt. The three main environmental policy areas that are explored are industrial pollution from large-scale industry, ecosystem conservation, and irrigation water management. The possibility of a more participatory and dynamic future for environmental policy making is assessed in light of the new political developments overtaking Egypt and the region. The author, Jeannie Sowers is a professor of Political Science at the University of New Hampshire.

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415783002/>**Ecological Footprint and Sustainability Options in the Arab Countries**

Author: Arab Fund for Environment and Development (AFED)

Publication Date: Expected Summer 2012

The upcoming 2012 Arab Fund for Environment and Development (AFED) report will analyze environmental sustainability in Arab countries based on a survey of ecological footprint. AFED commissioned the Global Footprint Network (GFN) to produce an Ecological Footprint Atlas for the region that captures the gap between available renewable resources (or biocapacity) and consumption. The study covers the period from 1961 to 2008 and includes the 22 members of the League of Arab States. The report seeks to encourage decision-makers, and the general public, to incorporate ecological accounting into their daily practices in order to enable the MENA region to create and maintain its competitive advantage for future generations.

<http://www.medwetlands-obs.org/en/content/monitoring-results>**The Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

Author: Ministry of Environment, Jordan

Publication Date: Expected 2014

The Jordanian Ministry of Environment has embarked on a two-year research project to evaluate the effect of climate change on several of the nation's biggest economic sectors. The findings will be published in Jordan's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The report will include estimates of greenhouse gas emissions by economic sector and will propose strategies for mitigation and carbon reduction in Jordan. Agriculture, energy, waste, industry and forests are some of the major sectors that will be assessed.

<http://jordantimes.com/jordan-preparing-third-climate-change-report>

**Reconciliation, Reform and Resilience: Positive Peace for Lebanon**

Author: Conciliation Resources

Publishing Date: July 2012

The Accord's 24th publication will dwell more into the complex interactions that feed into the conflict and the points of political change and reconciliation in Lebanon. The report includes more than 30 articles and interviews of different perspectives, the Accord series shows that "the Lebanese are not merely passive victims of a violent fate determined beyond their country's borders: many are hungry for change and have been actively exploring opportunities and pushing boundaries to achieve it." The report was just released in July 2012, and a Policy Brief is also available.

[http://www.c-r.org/sites/c-r.org/files/Accord24\\_Lebanon\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.c-r.org/sites/c-r.org/files/Accord24_Lebanon_ENG.pdf)**Democracy Prevention: The Politics of the U.S.-Egyptian Alliance**

Author: Jason Brownlee, University of Texas

Publishing Date: August 2012

Based on extensive primary research including top American and Egyptian decision-makers, this research rebuts the 'democracy promotion' literature and argues that the US has tried but been unsuccessful to make Egypt more democratic. It also shows why and how studies of authoritarianism should incorporate the role of foreign actors in shaping domestic politics. The author Jason Brownlee is an associate professor in the Department of Government at the University of Texas and a specialist in Middle East politics and US foreign policy. His first book on Authoritarianisms in an Age of Democratization explains the varying fates of autocratic rules who experimented with multi-party elections.

[http://www.cambridge.org/us/knowledge/isbn/item6817938/Democracy%20Prevention/?site\\_locale=en\\_US](http://www.cambridge.org/us/knowledge/isbn/item6817938/Democracy%20Prevention/?site_locale=en_US)**North Africa's Arab Spring**

Author: George Joffé, University of Cambridge

Publishing Date: Expected August 2012

This research examines the aspects surrounding the evolution of the Arab Spring in North Africa countries. It compares the role of the Muslim Brotherhood during the Nasser regime and in the contemporary situation in Egypt. The book also analyses the links between social media and satellite television during the revolution in Egypt. The book also demonstrates the intellectual and cultural background of the Tunisian, and looks at the new political parties developed there. The research also studies the revolution in Libya and concludes with some analysis of the factors stopped the revolution in Algeria and how the Moroccan monarchy was able to sideline those who challenged it at the price of constitutional changes. The author George Joffé is a Research Fellow at the Center for Science and Policy at the University of Cambridge and a Visiting Professor at Kings College, London University. He specializes in Middle East and North Africa.

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415623193/>